

CLAIMS:

1. An isolated proteinaceous molecule involved in or associated with regulation of cell activity and/or viability comprising a sequence of amino acids encoded by a nucleotide sequence, at least a portion of which, is capable of being amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using the following primers:

5' ACAGAATTCTGGGTIGTIACIGCIGCICAYTG3' [SEQ ID NO:1]; and

5'ACAGAATTCA~~X~~IGGICCIC/GT/AXTCICC3' [SEQ ID NO:2];

or a complementary form of said primers.

2. An isolated proteinaceous molecule according to claim 1 wherein said molecule is a serine proteinase comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 or an amino acid sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto.

3. An isolated proteinaceous molecule according to claim 1 wherein said molecule is a serine proteinase comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:6 or an amino acid sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto.

4. An isolated proteinase molecule according to claim 1 wherein said molecule is a serine proteinase comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:8 or an amino acid sequence having at least about 50% similarity thereto.

5. An isolated proteinaceous molecule according to claim 1 wherein said molecule is a serine proteinase comprising a sequence of amino acids encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

6. An isolated proteinaceous molecule according to claim 1 wherein said molecule is a serine proteinase comprising a sequence of amino acids encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:5 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:5 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

7. An isolated proteinaceous molecule according to claim 1 wherein said molecule is a serine proteinase comprising a sequence of amino acids encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

8. An isolated proteinaceous molecule according to claim 1 wherein said molecule is a kinase comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:10 or having 50% amino acid similarity thereto.

9. An isolated proteinaceous molecule according to claim 1 wherein said molecule is a kinase comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:9 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:9 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

10. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide wherein at least a portion of said nucleic acid molecule is capable of being amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using the following primers:

5' ACAGAATTCTGGGTIGTLACIGCIGGICAYTG3' [SEQ ID NO:1]; and

5'ACAGAATTCAIXIGGICCIC/GT/AXTCICC3' [SEQ ID NO:2];

or a complementary form of said primers.

11. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 10 wherein said polypeptide is a serine proteinase comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 or an amino acid sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto.
12. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 10 wherein said polypeptide is a serine proteinase comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:6 or an amino acid sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto.
13. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 10 wherein said polypeptide is a serine proteinase comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:8 or an amino acid sequence having at least about 50% similarity thereto.
14. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 10 comprising a sequence of nucleotides substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.
15. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 10 comprising a sequence of nucleotides substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:5 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:5 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.
16. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 10 comprising a sequence of nucleotides substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.
17. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 10 wherein said polypeptide is a kinase comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:10 or having 50% amino acid similarity thereto.

18. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 17 comprising a sequence of nucleotides encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:9 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:9 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

19. An isolated serine proteinase encoded by a gene proximal to a cluster of genes of a mammalian chromosome.

20. An isolated serine proteinase according to claim 19 wherein the mammalian chromosome is human chromosome 16p13.3 or its equivalent in a non-human species.

21. An isolated serine proteinase according to claim 20 wherein the gene cluster includes at least two genes having the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or 5 or 28 or 29 or 30 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity to any one of SEQ ID NO:3 or 5 or 28 or 29 or 30 or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing to any one of the sequences under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

22. An isolated serine proteinase according to claim 20 wherein said serine proteinase is a short form of HELA2 having an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 or an amino acid sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto.

23. An isolated serine proteinase according to claim 20 wherein said serine proteinase is a long form of HELA2 having an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:6 or an amino acid sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto.

24. An isolated serine proteinase according to claim 22 encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a sequence capable of hybridizing to SEQ I NO:3 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

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25. An isolated serine proteinase according to claim 23 encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:5 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a sequence capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO:5 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.
26. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a serine proteinase and corresponding to a gene proximal to a cluster of genes encoding serine proteinases.
27. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 26 wherein the gene cluster includes at least two genes having the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or 5 or 28 or 29 or 30 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity to any one of SEQ ID NO:3 or 5 or 28 or 29 or 30 or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing to any one of the sequences under low stringency conditions at 42°C.
28. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 25 comprising a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5 or a nucleotide sequence having at least about 50% similarity to either of SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5 or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.
29. An isolated kinase comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:10 or an amino acid sequence having at least about 50% similarity thereto.
30. An isolated kinase according to claim 29 encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:9 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO:9 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.
31. A method of regulating cell activity and/or viability said method comprising contacting said cell with an activity and/or viability effective amount of a serine proteinase and/or kinase.

32. A method according to claim 31 wherein the serine proteinase comprises a sequence of amino acids encoded by a nucleotide sequence, at least a portion of which, is capable of being amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using the following primers:

5' ACAGAATTCTGGGTIGTIACIGCIGCICAYTG3' [SEQ ID NO:1]; and

5'ACAGAATTCA~~X~~IGGICCIC/GT/AXTCICC3' [SEQ ID NO:2];

or a complementary form of said primers.

33. A method according to claim 31 wherein the serine proteinase comprises an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 or an amino acid sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto.

34. A method according to claim 31 wherein the serine proteinase comprises an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:6 or an amino acid sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto.

35. A method according to claim 31 wherein the serine proteinase comprises an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:8 or an amino acid sequence having at least about 50% similarity thereto.

36. A method according to claim 31 wherein the serine proteinase comprises a sequence of amino acids encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

37. A method according to claim 31 wherein the serine proteinase comprises a sequence of amino acids encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:5 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:5 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

38. A method according to claim 31 wherein the serine proteinase comprises a sequence of amino acids encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

39. A method according to claim 31 wherein the kinase comprises an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:10 or having 50% amino acid similarity thereto.

40. A method according to claim 31 wherein the kinase comprises an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:9 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:9 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

41. A method of modulating fertility in a mammal said method comprising modulating levels of HELA2 wherein increasing levels of HELA2 facilitates sperm maturation and development.

42. A method according to claim 41 wherein fertility is enhanced by introducing recombinant HELA2.

43. A method according to claim 41 wherein fertility is reduced by down regulating expression of the HELA2 gene.

44. A composition comprising a serine proteinase and/or kinase capable of regulating cell activity and/or viability and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

45. A composition according to claim 44 wherein the serine proteinase is HELA2 or a functional derivative thereof.

46. An isolated antibody capable of interacting with a proteinaceous molecule involved in or associated with regulation of cell activity and/or viability comprising a sequence of amino acids encoded by a nucleotide sequence, at least a portion of which, is capable of being

amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using the following primers:

5' ACAGAATTCTGGGTIGTIACIGCIGCICAYTG3' [SEQ ID NO:1]; and

5'ACAGAATTCA~~X~~IGGICCICCIC/GT/AXTCICC3' [SEQ ID NO:2];

or a complementary form of said primers.

47. An isolated antibody according to claim 46 wherein said proteinaceous molecule is a serine proteinase comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 or an amino acid sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto.

48. An isolated antibody according to claim 46 wherein said proteinaceous molecule is a serine proteinase comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:6 or an amino acid sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto.

49. An isolated antibody according to claim 46 wherein said proteinaceous molecule is a serine proteinase comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:8 or an amino acid sequence having at least about 50% similarity thereto.

50. An isolated antibody according to claim 46 wherein said proteinaceous molecule is a serine proteinase comprising a sequence of amino acids encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

51. An isolated antibody according to claim 46 wherein said proteinaceous molecule is a serine proteinase comprising a sequence of amino acids encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:5 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:5 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

52. An isolated antibody according to claim 46 wherein said proteinaceous said molecule is a serine proteinase comprising a sequence of amino acids encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

53. An isolated antibody according to claim 46 wherein said proteinaceous molecule is a kinase comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:10 or having 50% amino acid similarity thereto.

54. An isolated antibody according to claim 46 wherein said proteinaceous molecule is a kinase comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:9 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:9 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

55. An antagonist or agonist to the isolated proteinaceous molecule according to any one of claims 1 to 9.

56. A method of determining a predisposition for or the presence of a cancer, said method comprising determining the presence of a nucleotide sequence encoding a proteinaceous molecule according to any one of claims 1 to 9.

57. A method according to claim 56 wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide wherein at least a portion of said nucleotide sequence is capable of being amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using the following primers:

5' ACAGAATTCTGGGTIGTIACIGCIGCICAYTG3' [SEQ ID NO:1]; and

5'ACAGAATTCAIXIGGICCIC/GT/AXTCICC3' [SEQ ID NO:2];

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or a complementary form of said primers.

58. A method according to claim 57 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a serine proteinase comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 or an amino acid sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto.

59. A method according to claim 57 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a serine proteinase comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:6 or an amino acid sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto.

60. A method according to claim 57 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a serine proteinase comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:8 or an amino acid sequence having at least about 50% similarity thereto.

61. A method according to claim 57 wherein said nucleotide sequence is as substantially set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or is a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

62. A method according to claim 57 wherein said nucleotide sequence is as substantially set forth in SEQ ID NO:5 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:5 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

63. A method according to claim 57 wherein said nucleotide sequence is as substantially set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

64. A method according to claim 57 wherein said nucleotide sequence is as substantially set forth in SEQ ID NO:10 or having 50% amino acid similarity thereto.

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65. A method according to claim 57 wherein said nucleotide sequence is as substantially set forth in SEQ ID NO:9 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% similarity thereto or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridising to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:9 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

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